

THE DRUMRIGHT MUSEUM GUSHER

July 3, 2023/ Vol 6

sja PHOTOGRAPHY
Photographer: Sarah Mitter, D.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE OIL PATCH



August 5th
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Drumright Museum Lawn

Continued on Page. 4

JULY

DOWN AT THE DEPOT

The Resiliency of Drumright

Well, it's that time of year again when Oklahoma residents look to the skies and think about bad weather approaching. Drumright has had more than its fair share of bad storms and tornadoes over the years. But yet, Drumright always survives and rebuilds.

There are lots of photos and stories of the April 2, 1956 killer tornado that hit Drumright. It dipped down near the ball fields west of Whitlock Park and followed the hollow traveling northeast, coming out east of the (then) library and continuing through Way Park and out by the Deep Rock oil camp.

The path was 2 blocks wide and about 20 blocks long,

leaving 40 blocks of destruction, but missing the downtown area. The Oklahoma Red Cross gave the official numbers as 60 homes totally destroyed, 50 homes with major damage and another 40 homes with minor damage. There were 11 businesses destroyed and 2 public buildings severely damaged, the Public Library and the Salvation Army building.

Sadly, there was also loss of life. The following persons were killed by the 1956 storm: Mrs. Josie Weaver, C. V. Bevel and his wife, Maxine Bevel and their teenage daughters, Virginia and Gloria. The Bevel family lived at the Deep Rock oil camp that was destroyed on the northeast edge of town.

Amazingly, Drumright is a resilient community. Help came from all the surrounding communities. Oilfield workers brought bulldozers and heavy power equipment to move debris and open up the roads. OG&E restored electrical power and the process of rebuilding began.

Our next storm tragedy came on June 8, 1974, when an F-4 tornado tore Drumright apart. Down at the depot, we have pictures, posters, newspaper clippings and artifacts as evidence of that horrible day. The nightmare began about 5:00 p.m. on a Saturday evening, and in about 35 minutes, the tornado had finished its course.

This tornado started about 3 miles southwest of Drumright, in the Oak Grove area. It slashed through several homes and even the Oak Grove School. By 5:05 p.m., it had traveled through the Haven Hill neighborhood and was rolling through residential areas of Drumright. Many more homes were demolished and even more significantly, the Drumright Nursing Home was leveled. At 5:15 p.m., it passed through Olive, destroying the school, damaging a church and more homes. Then at 5:35 p.m., it hit Pier 51 at Lake Keystone.

The numbers help to tell this sad story. The path of this

tornado was 29 miles long. Its width equaled 4 football fields. According to the American Red Cross, more than 400 homes were damaged, with 94 of those being totally destroyed by the storm. It was estimated that 136 people were injured.

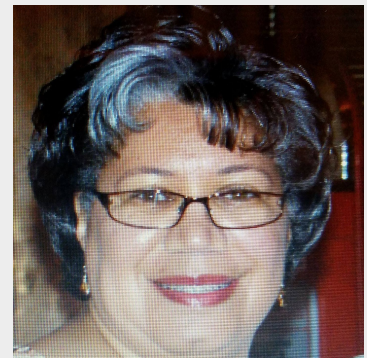
The loss in human lives was also devastating. The following persons perished as a result of this tornado: Sarah McCurley, Helen Ramsey, Bernice Bryson, Henderson Smith, Mary Taylor, Alvernia Hallman, Joe Kanive, Jessie Perkins, Ray Amos Crockett, Dulcie Dell Crockett, Verna Taylor and Mrs. and Mrs. George Battingfield.

Drumright is a resilient community. Once again, the American Red Cross, the Oklahoma National Guard and Highway Patrol were called into duty. Volunteers came from across the state to offer help in clearing the debris and starting the rebuilding process. The nursing home was rebuilt and modernized. Olive and Oak Grove Schools were repaired and reopened. Churches, businesses and community groups came together and found ways to provide what was needed...food, equipment, money, prayers and hope.

This past month of June, 2023, was another challenging time for Drumright area residents. Straight line winds of nearly

100 miles per hour knocked out electrical power, damaged homes and businesses and uprooted trees. Many of us were without power for several days, with temperatures in the 90s. We are still recovering from the damage. But once again, Drumright is a resilient community. We help each other. In the calm that we have after this most recent storm, let's all recommit ourselves to keeping our little community alive and well!

By: Patti Pouncil



Patti Pouncil



The April 1956 tornado severely damaged the Salvation Army building. It was rebuilt and later remodeled as the site of several businesses over the years.



Haskell Golden checking the damage done to his home on Maple Street by the June 1974 tornado.



This is an aerial view of the Drumright Nursing Home, destroyed by the June 1974 tornado.



Cleo and Corky Hutchison are shown here with their dog after surveying the damage to their store after the April 1956 tornado.

THE LITTLE OIL PATCH GIFT SHOP MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT

Personalized Bricks

On July 16th, an event is planned to raise funds for a brick walkway on the Museum grounds, so it seemed only fitting to focus the spotlight on how one goes about obtaining a brick!

The reasons for purchasing bricks are all unique. Many include family names, individual names, business names, civic and community club members, or bricks in memory of a family member or friend. Acknowledgement letters can be mailed to the recipient upon request or if you prefer to add the letter to a card or gift, we're happy to print it out for you or email the file for you to print.

The first order of bricks was in 2013, and many of the earliest ones can be seen when visiting the west side of the red caboose. Several more bricks reside inside the museum, waiting to be laid soon and one additional order will be made prior to laying the next walkway.

When thinking about what to put on your brick, you may choose up to three lines and each line may contain no more than 28 characters and spaces. The picture below will give some ideas from what others have chosen.

Museum bricks may be purchased for \$50 each by visiting the museum during regular business hours, or you may print out the file located at the beginning of the newsletter and mail it in with your payment. Order forms will also be available at the Tupperware Bingo event on July 16th and you may always purchase online at: [Memorial Brick | Drumright Community Historical Society Inc \(square.site\)](#)

MAKE CERTAIN TO GET YOUR BRICKS ORDERED NO LATER THAN JULY 31st.

The Drumright Historical Society Museum appreciates your support

By: Tammy Posey



Upcoming Events in the Oilpatch

TUPPERWARE BINGO!

SUPPORTING THE DRUMRIGHT MUSEUM

HELP BUILD A MUSEUM WALKWAY
FEATURING CUSTOMIZED BRICKS!



SUNDAY • JULY 16
DOORS OPEN AT 1 PM
BINGO STARTS AT 2 PM
TIDEWATER WINERY
DRUMRIGHT, OK

\$25 ADMISSION INCLUDES
ONE BINGO CARD, SNACKS, TEA & WATER

\$5 PER EXTRA BINGO CARD
BUY AS MANY AS YOU LIKE

DOOR PRIZE TICKETS
\$1 EACH OR \$5 FOR 10

\$25 GRAB BAGS

PURCHASE TICKETS AT:

- Drumright Historical Museum
- At the door
- <https://drumrightmuseum.square.site/>
(3% credit card fee added)


Help support the Drumright Historical Society Museum while enjoying a fun afternoon of Tupperware Bingo.

Custom brick forms will be available at the event. You may also visit the Museum during regular business hours. Bricks are \$40 each.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO BUILDING A WALKWAY, FEATURING CUSTOMIZED BRICKS!

Drumright Chamber of Commerce &
Drumright Police Department
Brings

Touch A Truck



JULY 22, 2023
AT
DRUMRIGHT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM
10 am to 2 pm



HELP NEEDED

Unknown Photo
Family lived in Cushing/Drumright chasing oil fields.
Thought to be in 1920's.

Can you help us identify this woman?

Obituaries

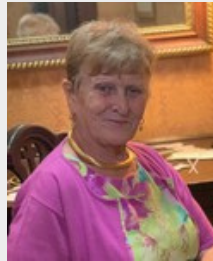
Gennie Lynn (Duren) Castleberry

A memorial service for Drumright resident, Gennie Castleberry, was held 1:00 p.m. Monday, June 5th in the Memorial Chapel of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright. Pastor Monty McGee of the Drumright First Baptist Church officiated.

Gennie was born in IZARD County, Arkansas on December 9, 1948 to the late Hubert Festus Duren & Alma Irene (Hill) Duren. She passed from this life in Tulsa, Oklahoma on May 31, 2023 at the age of 74 years, 5 months, and 22 days. Gennie moved from California to Drumright with her family at a very young age. She was raised & educated in Drumright & was a 1968 graduate of Drumright High School. She was a loving mother and a friend to many. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by 1 Sister: Peggy Hainer; & 4 Brothers: Harland – Garland – Hubert - & Randy Duren.

Her remaining family includes her 3 CHILDREN: Monic Beeson of Collinsville – DeWayne Castleberry of Drumright – Kirk Hinshaw of Stroud; GRANDCHILDREN: Courtney – Dalton – Ashton – Gage – Justin – & Peyton; 10 GREAT Grandchildren; 1 BROTHER: Mike Duren of Drumright; plus SEVERAL Nieces – Nephews – Cousins – other relatives & friends.

Services & cremation entrusted to Michael's Funeral Home.



Earl Wayne Molder

A memorial service for Oilton resident, Wayne Molder, was held 2:00 p.m. Saturday, June 10th in the Memorial Chapel of Michael's Funeral Home of Drumright. Mr. Erich Goodman officiated.

Wayne was born in Drumright, Oklahoma on July 8, 1965 to John Wayne Molder & Barbara Jean (Smith) Molder. He passed from this life at his residence in Oilton on June 2, 2023 at the age of 57 years, 10 months, and 24 days. Wayne was raised & educated in Oilton where he has spent the majority of his life. He married Doris Lucille Stobaugh in Drumright & they have remained together until his death. Wayne was a truck driver and had also worked in the oil fields. He loved listening to & playing music & was a friend to everyone he met. He was preceded in death by his Father.

His remaining family includes his Wife: Lucy Molder of Oilton; his Mother: Barbara Molder of Oilton; Sister: Lori Molder of Drumright; Brother: Gary Molder of Drumright; Nieces & Nephews: Andrea – Brian – John – Cody – James - & Megan; also numerous Cousins & other relatives.

Services & cremation entrusted to Michael's Funeral Home.



Obituaries

John Curtis Molder

Funeral services for Oilton resident, John Molder, were held 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 24th at the Oak Grove Baptist Church at Cushing, Oklahoma. Dr. Stuart Shoemake officiated. Interment followed in the Highland Cemetery at Oilton, Oklahoma.

John was born at Cushing, Oklahoma on August 28, 1992 to Gary Molder & Lisa (Staley) Molder. He passed from this life tragically at his home on June 18, 2023 at the age of 30 years, 9 months, & 21 days. John was raised & educated in Creek & Cherokee Counties and was a 2011 graduate of Oilton High School. He married Ashlee Baker in Cushing on November 14, 2015 & they made their home in Mannford for a short time. The family moved back to Oilton around 7 years ago. John had worked in the maintenance department of an Amazon warehouse. He enjoyed watching movies, fishing, swimming, & having cookouts with friends & family. But nothing was more precious to him than spending time with his family. He was preceded in death by his Grandfathers: John Wayne Molder, & Jim Staley; and Uncle: Wayne Molder.

He leaves behind his loving Wife & Children: Ashlee - Leevi Wayne - Logan - and Baby Molder on the way; his Parents: Gary Molder & Lisa Molder; his In-Laws: Dusty Baker & Misty Baker; Sister: Andrea Molder; Brother: Brian Molder; Sister-In Law: Brittany Baker & husband Travis; Nieces: Adalee Baker & Baby Baker on the way; Aunts & Uncles: Lori Molder & Carl Richburg - Luci Molder - C.J. & Erica Horn; Cousins: Cody Earls - Megan Griffith - James Griffith - Briar Horn - Branch Horn - & Cactus Horn; Grandmothers: Barbara Molder & Pat Staley; Close Friends: Luke McCauley - Joey Stuedemann - & Justin Campbell; plus several other relatives and many friends.

Services entrusted to Michael's Funeral Home.



Obituaries

Dustyn Jade Ruggles-Briody

Funeral services for Dustyn Ruggles-Briody were held 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 16th in the Memorial Chapel of Michael's Funeral Home. His uncle, Andy Sloan officiated.

Dustyn was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on January 21, 2009 to Michelle Ruggles and Michael Sloan. He passed from this life in Tulsa on June 8, 2023 at the young age of 14 years, 4 months, & 18 days. Dustyn was raised in Drumright where he attended school until the fifth grade. He then transferred to Cushing Public Schools where he was enrolled as a freshman. Dustyn's playful and mischievous personality will be missed by all who knew him. Welcoming him to heaven was his brother: Kaiden Sloan; & his Paternal Grandmother: Kelly Sloan.

Those who will cherish his memory forever include his Parents: Michelle Ruggles & Michael Sloan & his Brother: Caleb Sloan of Drumright; Maternal Grandmother: Pamela Ruggles of Mannford; Paternal Grandparents: Howard & Paula Sloan of Drumright; Uncles & Aunts: Andy Sloan of Drumright – Chris Sloan – Krystal Brown – Aaron Westbay - & Tiffany Sloan all of Mannford; plus numerous Cousins – other relatives, and friends.

Services entrusted to Michael's Funeral Home.



in
loving
memory

